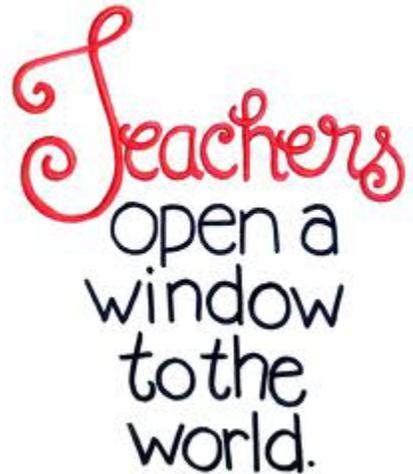# Tips for Teachers

For children with tactile processing issues:

- Children that are hypersensitive may not do well sitting at circle time and/or at tables where other children are close by. They may also not want to participate in "messy play" activities.
- Children that are hyposensitive may want to frequently touch other things & people.
- Allow for 'fidget toys'

For children with auditory processing issues:

- In the classroom hypersensitive children need to be seated away from noises such as air conditioners, fans, noisy hallways, other children that talk a lot, etc.
- Allow for earplugs or iPods with white noise or classical music (or similar devices to be used) to be used for test taking.
- Use wall hangings to lessen any echoing in the room. Wall hangings should be subtle in pattern as too much visual chaos will not be good for the hypersensitive visual child.

For children with olfactory processing issues:

- If you rely on donations from parents for items such as Kleenex, hand soap and other such supplies, request that they donate 'green products'.
- Have a "no perfume" policy; this should include scented lotions as well.
- For daycares and pre-schools; suggest they use warm water and white vinegar as a cleaning agent rather than chemical based products.

For children with visual processing issues:

- Give auditory as well as visual instructions.
- For hypersensitive children, allow the use of a lightly tinted pair of sunglasses (gray or rose are good). Seat these children away from a lot of visual distractions such as windows, open doors, walls with a lot of visual distractions.
- Children with accommodation issues may have trouble copying from the board to paper; allow these children to have a set of written instructions or information that is to be obtained from the board.
- Keep classroom walls as visually distractive free as possible.
- For testing purposes (e.g. math that requires many steps to solve) allow the child to use a blank piece of paper to cover up previous steps so they can stay visually on task.

For children with vestibular processing issues:

- Children that need vestibular input in order to maintain focus may benefit from the use of a seat cushion. Progressive teachers may also allow for the child to sit on a physioball or rocking chair.
- Allow the child to get up to take a "time out walk".
- In grade school where the children spend the entire day in one classroom, do short spurts of movement exercises with the entire classroom. A good way to implement is to do between changing of subjects. Give examples of activities.
- DO NOT punish a child for not getting their work done or doing poorly by taking away recess time. These children need the movement!

For children with proprioceptive processing issues:

- Children who have difficulty with handwriting skills (fine motor) may benefit from using pencil grips.
- Allow for the use of a seat cushion or physioball to sit on.
- Use a piece of theraband to wrap around the front leg of the desk chair for the child to put their feet through and kick into.
- Allow for a fidget toy such as a squishy ball or stress ball.
- Allow for the child to have a weighted lap buddy or use books to put on their lap to help ground them.
- Have OT's come in every 2 hours to do deep joint compression (or have teacher do with permission from parents).
- Recommend to the parent for child to where "Under Armor" garments.

Other tips:

Hypoglycemia

- If a child is having problem with behavior, concentration, mood swings, etc the hour prior to lunch, about 1.5 hours after lunch, or when they are picked up from school or arrive home from school; look at a possible hypoglycemic issue.
- It would benefit all parties to allow the child to have a healthy protein based snack during these times!
- Do NOT give candy as rewards for good behavior/performance; both for the sake of sugar and the dyes. Instead give other items such as fun pencils, erasers, toys, stickers, etc.

Notes: